



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

April 2016 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – April 18th 2016

This month's topic

“ Ballon Radio Amateur du Quebec ”

Presentation given by Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

President's Message and Report

by Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ (ve2ddz@ve2ddz.ca)

Hi all,

Welcome to new WIARC members Cedric Nerot VA2CNE and Lyubomir (Lubo) Georgiev VA2GLM. It is great to have you aboard. And a thank-you goes to Dave, VA2DGC, for stepping forward at the March meeting and volunteering to handle sales of items for the club.

Spring is in the air and for me, spring brings thoughts of hamfests and thoughts of field day. I had a good time at the Laval hamfest and at the MARC hamfest. I spent more money than I planned, but that seems to always be the way. I found a number of things I didn't know I needed until they were right in front of me waiting to be bought. Some of the things I found may help with some of my ongoing projects, but more likely they will initiate new projects for me. I have been trying to work my way down through my project list, but no matter how many projects I finish, the list still seems to grow.

The joint WIARC/MARC Field Day operations will be back at the same Beaconsfield site this year. The big change is the addition of a Get On The Air (GOTA) station to this year's mix. The idea of a GOTA station is to get non-active hams or members of the public on the air during Field Day. If you know any non-active amateurs or others who might want to operate, perhaps now is a good time to put a bug in their ear - Field Day - June 25 and 26, 2016.

I am hopeful that some of the new hams from Space Concordia will come by our Field Day operations and make use of the GOTA station. I spent a fun evening at Concordia while Eamon, VE2EGN, gave exams to the Space Concordia crew. That exam session led to four new basic qualifications and one new advanced. The discussion about ham radio following the exam was quite animated and enthusiastic.

Last month's talk by Eamon, VE2EGN went a long way to filling the gaps in my knowledge of baluns and transmission lines. Thank-you Eamon. I feel much better able to make decisions about when to use baluns and what type to choose.

This month Bob, VE2AXO, will give a presentation on the activities of the Ballon Radio Amateur du Québec group. This group, led by Michel Graveline, VE2WVG, has been launching amateur radio payloads into "near space" for a number of years now. I am looking forward to hearing what they have planned for this summer's launches.

April 18, 2016 Meeting Agenda

- Tips
- SIGs
 - Group SOTA
 - Field Day
- Reports
 - Emergency Communications
- Other Business
- Break (coffee, ragchew, cookies)
- Ballon Radio Amateur du Quebec - Bob VE2AXO

See you on the 18th.

73,

What happened Minutes of the March 2016 WIARC meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL (kglashan@yahoo.ca)

Minutes of the WIARC Meeting March 21, 2016 By Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:33. Malcolm VE2DDZ welcomed the 23 attendees and started the meeting with usual roll call with call signs. The details of the meeting follow.

1. **Tip Time Tips:**

Eamon VE2EGN suggested using a blown glass fuse as a stand-off. Malcolm VE2DDZ warned about a certain imported NMO to UHF adapter that fell apart after a single use in cold outdoor weather at the Ski Marathon.

2. **Sunday Net News:**

Malcolm showed several slides of the luncheon get together held March 12, 2016 at Chenoy's. All seem to have a good time.

3. **Field Day News:**

We are gaining speed on plans for this year. Beaconsfield Centennial Park has been confirmed. The actual location on the site has yet to be

determined as Beaconsfield is currently cutting some of the big trees. Although our battery supplier has yet to be contacted, we hope to operate 2A and have a 6 meter station too. The big news is that we will have an ARRL GOTA (Get On The Air) station. Bar-B-Q laws are changing. Special permits can be acquired on occasion. We are not confident that we will qualify.

4. **SOTA News:**

Last May, the group activation planned for Mont St. Bruno fell through because of poor weather conditions. Malcolm asked the group if there was interest in trying again this year. There were 5 or 6 interested parties. More details next month.

5. **Heard Island VK0EK active:**

George VE2NGH advised that Heard Island is being activated for the 1st time in 19 years. Look for them from March 23rd until about April 10th. Visit VK0EK.ORG for on line updates.

6. **Club Stuff:**

We are looking for a social coordinator. If you would be willing to organize occasional social functions not

necessarily radio related, please speak to Malcolm. This evening, Dave VA2DGC volunteered to be our eBay seller. He will handle on-line selling of Club assets when required. Thanks Dave. Finally, if anyone would like to suggest a topic for a talk at our regular meeting, please make it known to Malcolm. Don't be shy.

7. **RAQI News:**

Malcolm attended the MARC meeting last month, and spoke about his findings concerning the new structure for RAQI. He recommends that we support the change from individual to club membership. It looks like the fees will be a \$300 per club plus \$2.25 per member. Stay tuned, there may be more information coming.

8. **Canadian Ski Marathon:**

James VE2KHC reported that he once again participated with his truck. He claimed that he had about 50 operators during the event, and thinks this year was the best one yet.

He reminded us just how big the CSM has become. It now attracts participants from across Canada, from the USA, and even from Europe.

9. After the Break:

After the break Eamon VE2EGN gave a talk on Transmission lines and Baluns. He discussed the various types of lines and their properties. He covered 2 wire dipole types, normally considered balanced. He discussed twin lead and ladder line. On the subject of COAX, he suggested that fatter is better. Then he got into the use of baluns to connect unbalanced coax to balanced dipoles. He explained how these rules apply to antennas and feedlines and sometimes to electric circuits as well. He showed examples of antennas where a balun was omitted. They can be optional at times. He mentioned tuners that have a built-in balun. He showed circuit diagrams for 4:1 baluns and 1:1 baluns. He discussed in detail current baluns and voltage baluns. His presentation included lots of slides, charts and graphs. Thank you, Eamon for all your hard work and research. It is a



Eamon VE2EGN Guest Speaker

subject that we tend to overlook at times and treat with less respect than we should. Thanks again. Keep us in tune.

10. Break Time Cookies:

Malcolm made an appeal to the members to take a turn, volunteer, and provide the break time treats on occasion. It seems that few take it very seriously, but most really enjoy the social part of the meetings. This evening, the break time treats were provided by Dave VA2DGC. Thanks again Dave. According to the volunteer

sheet, Vlad VA2TTA will be providing treats for next month's meeting. By the way the 2016 cookie sheet still has some entries available. Come on fellows, step up and pick a choice month before they all go.

11. 50/50 Draw:

The winner of the 50-50 draw this evening was Vlad VA2TTA who donated his winnings to the club. Congratulations and thanks.

12. Door Prizes:

There were none tonight.

13. A Pun my Word:

If peanut oil comes from peanuts, and olive oil comes from olives, then where do they get that baby oil?

The meeting adjourned at 22:00. See you April 18th, 2016.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

Monthly Meeting tips

Have you worked on a ham radio project lately? Did you discover a solution to a problem that may be helpful for your fellow WIARC members? Then come and share your tips at our monthly meetings.

A short amount of time will be allocated at the beginning of each meeting for members to share tips.

Find us on Facebook and twitter

by Bram Paterson VA2XE (ve2xcs@bell.net)

WIARC has an online presence on both social media websites, for up-to-date information visit:

<https://twitter.com/westislandarc>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/437310523122118/>

We want to hear from you

by Bram Paterson, VA2XE (ve2xcs@bell.net)

Do you have an idea or story that you want to share with your fellows WIARC members. We want to hear from you. Please send your article to the newsletter editor at the beginning of the month to the following email address:

ve2xcs@bell.net

+++ Free Flea Market Tables +++

Flea-market tables available free to members. Members are reminded that there are always tables available at the regular monthly meetings.

So, if you wish to sell something, or clean out your basement, or do your spring cleaning early, you don't have to wait for the next Hamfest. Just bring those junk boxes, antenna parts, and old rigs to the next WIARC

meeting and set up your table at the back of the hall. It's free. It's fun. It's win-win.

\$\$\$ Swap Shop \$\$\$

To advertise items for sale, send details to Bram VE2XCS, the newsletter editor at ve2xcs@bell.net.

He will gladly include them in the next bulletin. Please remember to include all pertinent information relating to the item you wish to sell.

Footnotes About Us

The West Island Amateur Radio Club was founded in 1972

Mailing Address - P.O. Box 884 Pointe-Claire, Quebec H9R 4Z6

E-mail: VE2CWI@WIARC.CA

Executives:

President : Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

Vice-president : Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI

Treasurer : Bram Paterson, VA2XE

Secretary : Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Accredited Examiner:

Larry Dobby, VE2DO DOBBY@AEI.CA

Mark Morin, VA2MM mark@partout.ca

Directors:

Editor : Bram Paterson, VA2XE

QSL Manager : Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

Webmaster : Wayne Hodgins, VE2WRH

Immediate Past : Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

President

News and comments are always welcomed; please submit them to the following address, VE2CWI@WIARC.CA

Website: <http://www.wiarc.ca>

Repeaters: VE2RWI VHF - 146.910 MHz (-) and VE2RWI UHF - 443.050 MHz (+)
(88.5 Hz CTCSS tone both transmitted and received on the VHF repeater and a 141.3 Hz CTCSS tone only transmitted on the UHF repeater).

Monthly Meetings

Held the 3rd Monday of every month, except July & August at: Lakeside Heights Baptist Church, 275 Braebrook, Pointe-Claire (West Island part of Montreal). Visitors are always welcomed.

WIARC NETS on the 146.91 VE2RWI Repeater

Information Net each Sunday evening at 8PM running for approximately an hour.
All are welcome to participate.